



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2008**

**Grade 5
Reading**

Reading

- ❶ The words uncertain and unchanged have a prefix (beginning) that means
- A. not.
 - B. against.
 - C. opposite.
 - D. never.

Her favorite subject has always been science.

- ❷ Which sentence uses the word subject as it is used in the box?
- A. We learned that one part of a sentence is called the subject.
 - B. He talked about his trip and another subject.
 - C. What is the subject of your book report?
 - D. What subject does Mr. Garcia teach?

Read this story about a girl who creates a garden in her neighborhood. Then answer the questions that follow.

Tanya's City Garden

by Michelle Dionetti

Tanya leaned out her apartment window. She looked down to the cement alley below. The brick walls were old and dirty. The fire hydrant needed paint.

There was nothing good to look at. Tanya sighed and shook her head.

"Look, Ramon," she said to her brother. "Everything out there is gray!"

Ramon looked out the window, too.

"What can YOU do about it?" he asked.

"I'm going to make a garden," said Tanya.

"In the cement?" hooted Ramon.

"Just wait and see!" said Tanya.

Tanya pulled a plastic rose out of the vase on her dresser. She put the rose in a jar. Then she grabbed a broom and took the vase down to the sidewalk.

The alley between the buildings was filthy. Tanya's broom stirred up swirls of dust. When the cement was clean, she put her rose in the middle of the alley.

"What's that?" called Ms. Jones, leaning out of her window.

"It's a garden!" Tanya called back.

Ms. Jones studied the little flower. "So it is," she agreed. "If you'll come upstairs to my apartment, I'll give you something else for your garden."

Ms. Jones met Tanya at the door with a geranium in a pot.

"Oh, thank you!" exclaimed Tanya.

"You'll have to water it," warned Ms. Jones.

"I will," promised Tanya.

18 Tanya set the geranium next to the plastic rose. While she was admiring her garden, Gerald, the handyman, walked by.

19 Gerald admired the garden, too. A twinkle came into his eyes. He smiled a mysterious smile.

20 Ramon's teacher, Ms. Metoyer, stopped on her way home from school. "Very good, Tanya!" she said. "That's showing initiative!"

21 Max, the artist, walked by. "What a nice splash of color in all this gray!" he cried.

22 Mrs. Primrose, the florist, stopped. "I didn't know you liked flowers," she said.

The only person who didn't stop to admire the garden was Miriam Grand, the television executive. She was always too busy to stop for anything.

The next morning, Tanya took a glass of water down to her garden. While she watered the geranium, Gerald came along the sidewalk, carrying something heavy. Grunting, he set it down.

"What a beautiful bench," said Tanya, admiring the red paint. "Thank you!"

Gerald sat on the bench, puffing. "It will be nice to have a bench here," he said.

Ms. Metoyer marched down the street. Behind her came Ramon's class. Each student carried something. One of the somethings was a long wooden box.

"May we put this planter in your garden and plant our seeds?" asked Ms. Metoyer.

Tanya clapped her hands. "That will make it a real garden!" she said.

The students put the planter across from Gerald's bench. They filled the planter with dirt, planted the seeds, and watered them. Tanya sat on the bench next to Gerald and watched proudly.

“I have an idea,” said Max the artist. He held a box of paints and a fistful of brushes. “You can’t grow grass here,” said Max. “And you can’t see much sky. I’ll paint you a view!”

With his paints, Max turned the brick apartment walls into a scene of hills and trees and sky. He let Ramon’s class paint in flowers and bugs and birds.

Mrs. Primrose, the florist, came down the sidewalk pulling a wagon. In the wagon was a potted tree, which she placed near the bench.

Then down the street came Miriam Grand, the television executive. Clip, clip, clip went the heels of her shoes. When she came to Tanya’s garden, she stopped with a jerk.

“What’s this?” she cried.

36 “It’s a city garden!” chorused Tanya, Ramon, Ms. Jones, Gerald, Ms. Metoyer, Ramon’s class, Mrs. Primrose, and Max.

“It’s a story!” cried Miriam Grand. “It’s news!”

And away she ran, her heels clip-clip-clipping, to call her office.

Soon a shiny car and a big van stopped at the end of the alley. Out of the car jumped the

mayor of the city. Out of the van jumped a camera crew.

“Who started the garden?” they asked.

“Tanya!” everyone shouted, pushing her forward.

The mayor cleared his throat. The cameras started rolling.

“I present this Ribbon of Honor to Tanya,” said the mayor, “as an award for beautifying the city!”

Tanya took the award in her hand and looked around her. The brick walls were no longer dirty. The alley was clean. The garden was beautiful to look at.

Then Tanya looked around at her neighbors and smiled.

“Thank you, Mr. Mayor,” she said, “but this is not my garden. It’s our garden!”

She hung the ribbon on the fire escape. “So this award is for all of us,” she cried. And Tanya’s neighbors—her fellow city gardeners—cheered.

- 3 What is the **main** problem at the beginning of the story?
- A. Ramon wants Tanya to stop thinking about the alley.
 - B. Tanya does not know how to create a garden.
 - C. Tanya does not like how the neighborhood looks.
 - D. The neighbors are too busy to help Tanya.

- 4 At the beginning of the story, how does Tanya's brother, Ramon, react to his sister's idea?
- A. He is jealous of his sister.
 - B. He agrees with her plan.
 - C. He is willing to help his sister.
 - D. He laughs at her plan.

- 5 A synonym (same meaning) for the word admire is
- A. save.
 - B. greet.
 - C. like.
 - D. believe.

- 6 What do paragraphs 18 through 22 describe?
- A. how Tanya enjoys the garden
 - B. the appearance of the garden
 - C. what Tanya learns about creating a garden
 - D. the neighbors' excitement about the garden

- 7 Explain how Tanya shows she is a caring person in the story. Use details from the story to support your answer.

- 8 How do the neighbors support Tanya's idea for a garden?
- A. They take pictures of the garden.
 - B. They hire people to build the garden.
 - C. They help her develop the garden.
 - D. They write a story about the garden.
- 9 How does the television executive change toward the end of the story?
- A. She wants to have more free time.
 - B. She shows an interest in the garden.
 - C. She moves into a new neighborhood.
 - D. She offers to help Tanya with the garden.
- 10 In paragraph 36, the word chorused means that the people
- A. laughed aloud.
 - B. spoke together.
 - C. pushed forward.
 - D. thought quickly.
- 11 What is the **main** message in this story?
- A. It is important to become famous.
 - B. Everyone has different interests.
 - C. One person can make a change.
 - D. People should be responsible for their actions.
- 12 Explain how the people in the story work together to change the neighborhood. Use details from the story to support your answer.

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Grade 5 Reading Released Item Information

| Released Item Number | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Content Strand ¹ | WV | WV | LI | LA | WV | LI | LA | LA | LI | WV | LA | LI |
| GLE Code | 4-2 | 4-3 | 4-4 | 4-5 | 4-3 | 4-4 | 4-5 | 4-5 | 4-4 | 4-3 | 4-5 | 4-4 |
| Depth of Knowledge Code | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Item Type ² | MC | MC | MC | MC | MC | MC | CR | MC | MC | MC | MC | CR |
| Answer Key | A | D | C | D | C | D | | C | B | B | C | |
| Total Possible Points | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, CR = Constructed Response